What is claimed is:

1.   A system for accessing content over a network of computers, the system comprising:

a database system that contains a mapping of a plurality of channel codes to a plurality of network addresses and a plurality of content descriptions, where each channel code comprises a genre code and a numerical code, and where each network address identifies a unit of content;

a content provider interface to the database system that allows content providers to enter the network addresses and the content descriptions into the database system for the units of content;

a viewer interface to the database system, comprising a guide, a virtual remote control, and a network browser application on one of the computers connected to the computer network;

where the guide shows the content descriptions for units of content and allows a viewer to select one of the channels for viewing through the network browser application; and

where the virtual remote control allows the viewer to access the units of contents through the network browser application by inputting a channel code or by selecting a genre code and browsing through the channel codes of that genre code, wherein

the virtual remote control is independently displayed from the network browser application.

2. The system for accessing content from claim 1, further comprising a tracking module coupled to the computer network and in communication with the viewer interface, for tracking statistics on the viewing habits of the user.

3. The system for accessing content from claim 1, further comprising a plurality of themes, where the user can choose one of the themes and the user interface is altered to match the chosen theme.

4. The system for accessing content from claim 1, further comprising:

    a speech recognition module, for accepting spoken commands from the viewer;

    a speech synthesizer module for verbally responding to the viewer;

    wherein the speech recognition module and the speech synthesizer module are interfaced with the guide, the virtual remote control and the network browser application of the viewer interface; and

    wherein the viewer can interact with the guide, the virtual remote control and the network browser application through the speech recognition module and the speech synthesizer module.

5. A virtual remote control for a system for accessing content over a network of computers, wherein the virtual remote control is software run by one of the

computers on the network of computers, and wherein the virtual remote control comprises a channel scan function that allows a user to cycle through channels within a genre.

6. The virtual remote control from claim 5, wherein channel scan function also allows the user to cycle through channels for a genre, where only the channels having content and which have been identified as one of the user's favorite channels are accessible by the channel scan function.

7. The system for accessing content from claim 1, wherein the Internet Domain Name System is not accessed in providing the user with units of content.

8. A remote control for a system for accessing content over a network of computers, wherein the remote control is adapted to accept channel codes consisting of a genre code and a numerical code.

9. The remote control from claim 8, wherein the remote control is a virtual remote control that is software run on one of the computers from the network of computers.

10. The remote control from claim 8, wherein the remote control is further adapted to require a genre code before a user can cycle through the channels in the genre.

11. The remote control from claim 9, wherein the remote control further comprises a speech recognition module, for accepting spoken commands from a user;

a speech synthesizer module for verbally responding to the user; and

wherein the user can interact verbally with the remote control through the speech recognition module and the speech synthesizer module.

12. A virtual remote control for a system for accessing content over a network of computers, wherein the virtual remote control is software in one of the computers from the network of computers; and wherein the virtual remote control comprises a channel scan function that allows a user to cycle through channels, where only the channels having content are accessible by the channel scan function.

13. The virtual remote control from claim 12, further wherein the virtual remote control requires the user to choose a genre so that the channel scan function allows the user to cycle through the channels of the genre having content.

14. A system for accessing content over a network of computers, the system comprising a plurality of favorites lists on one of the computers, wherein each user of the computer is assigned one of the plurality of favorites lists, and wherein each user can associate units of content to the favorites list of that user; and wherein the system sorts the units of content associated to the favorites lists by genre.

15. A virtual remote control for a system for accessing content over a network of computers, wherein the virtual remote control is software in one of the computers from the network of computers; and wherein a user of one of the computers can access units of content with the virtual remote control via a peripheral device connected to the computer, where the peripheral device can be a microphone, an

infra-red controller which accepts commands from a traditional television remote control, or a game pad.

16. A content player for a computer from a network of computers for accessing units of content with spoken commands from a user, the content player comprising:

a database system that contains a mapping of a plurality of channel codes to a plurality of network addresses, where each channel code comprises a genre code and a numerical code, and where each network address identifies a unit of content;

a network browser which plays a selected unit of content from the network of computers to the user; and

a user interface module comprising a speech recognition module and a speech synthesizer module, for accepting spoken commands from the user and for verbally responding to the user, wherein the user interface module reacts to a spoken command from the user by retrieving the network address from the database system mapped to one of the channel codes and instructs the network browser to retrieve and play the unit of content located at the network address.

17. A system for organizing on-line content from a network of computers, the system comprising:

a database system that contains a mapping of a plurality of channel codes to a plurality of network addresses and a plurality of content descriptions, where each

channel code comprises a genre code and a numerical code, and where each network address identifies a unit of content; and

a content provider interface coupled to the database system, for allowing a user to enter one of the plurality of network addresses and one of the plurality of content descriptions into the database system for a unit of content, wherein the content provider interface associates the network address and the content description to one of the plurality of channel codes.

18.   The system for organizing on-line content from claim 17, further comprising a tracking module for monitoring the channel codes accessed from the database by one of the computers from the network of computers.